PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Two F.R.G. nationals have come to the notice of the Government for having entered Baliapal in the Balasore District of Orissa. One of them was found overstaying in India and accordingly action under the Foreigners Act has been taken. As of now, no Defence installation/equipment exists in the area and it is not a restricted area.

2821. [Transferred to the 25th March, 1988]

Polish credit for energy sector

2822. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Poland has offered to extend credit to India for joint collaboration in the Energy sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Government of Poland had offered, in 1986, credit assistance for supply and erection of equipment for the Ib Valley Thermal Project in Orissa. On a careful consideration of the matter, this offer was not found acceptable and the Government of Poland was informed accordingly.

Boosting up of tobacco exports

2823. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for boosting up tobacco exports from the country as per the news-item in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 21st February, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. At a seminar on tobacco exports organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) in association with the Tobacco Boards on 20th February, 1988 suggestions have been made for boosting tobacco exports.

(b) Some of the suggestions made at the seminar are:

— It may be possible to increase exports if quality of tobacco is improved.

— Need to increase yield of tobacco per hectare which has remained static over the years.

— A fresh look at research and reviewing the extension efforts in order to make tobacco growing attractive.

— The State Governments have an important role to play in improving the quality and production of tobacco, as well as look after the interests of tobacco growers and exporters.

Efforts are underway to identify and develop the varieties which produce low-nicotine and tobaccos with flavour which have demand in some of the importing countries. It is proposed to intensify extension activities for improving the productivity and quality of tobacco in order to